



ACC-CLS Parent News

A Note from the Director

Gershwin's "Summertime...and the living's easy..." does not describe life with a pre-schooler or school-ager during this time of year. Even if your child isn't out of school for the summer, kids naturally know that summer is a special time of year when you get to do fun stuff. I thought about what kinds of things I did with my own children 20 years ago, but thought that since Austin has changed so much, I should probably do a little research. Interestingly, while there are new things to do, many of the old standby activities still exist. For example, one of our favorite activities included taking a quiet stroll through the Umlauf Gardens <http://www.umlaufulsculpture.org/> Below are some websites with lots of ideas for family fun in the Austin area. Many of them free or inexpensive.

<http://www.kidevents.com/>

<http://www.austinboredkids.com/>

<http://www.austinkidsguide.com/>

<http://www.austintex.com>—Click on "Free Stuff Austin", "Austin Parks and Outdoor Activities", "Austin Attractions and Family Activities", and "Museums" for tons of ideas.

<http://www.fun-things-texas.com/>

http://www.thataway.org/events/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/austin_attractions.pdf—General suggestions for adults and children, this pdf lists many beloved places with links for more info

www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/aquatics.htm—List of swim lessons by pool <http://>

www.zilker.org/thehill.html—Last but not least, take in the Zilker Hillside Musical, The Music Man July 9-August 14

And don't forget to pick up an *Austin Family* or *Parent: Wise* magazine from the foyer for a look at their calendar of events. Happy planning!

May 2010

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Important Dates:

- ☺ **Wednesday, May 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**—Parent Association Meeting—Preparing Yourself AND Your Child for the Transition to Kindergarten
- ☺ **Tuesday, May 18, 9 a.m.**—Field Trip to Nature Center (Stars) and Zilker Gardens (Planet Earth)
- ☺ **Thursday, May 20, 4:30-6 p.m.**—Kindergarten Panel (Planet Earth)
- ☺ **Thursday, June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**—End of Year Party at Austin Children's Museum

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Thursday, June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

End of Year Party

Austin Children's Museum

Pizza provided by the
Parent Association

Exhibits Include:

the BIG game (feature exhibit)

In My Family/En Mi Familia and more (permanent exhibits)

**AUSTIN
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 11-17, 2010

"Early Years are Learning Years"

PARADE



Storytelling



Sallie Beth Moore award for Teacher of the Year

Recognition



Parent Association News

Current Year Officers:

Paloma Hernandez—Chair

Aoife Longmore—Secretary

Diane Bogard—Treasurer

Parent Room Representatives:

Sunbeams—Erin Romero

Moons—Mison Zuniga

Stars—Amy Esqueda and Rick Taylor

Planet Earth—Laurie Drucker

Room representatives

communicate with parents in their child's classroom by e-mail, phone or notes to remind them about upcoming events.



The Parent Association did not meet in April due to Week of the Young Child events and the parent workshop.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Cathy Buck, Pease Elementary Kindergarten Teacher will talk with parents about Preparing Yourself AND Your Child for Kindergarten. We will conduct some simple business at the end of the meeting, including nominations for officers and room representatives for next year.

As always, child care and a light meal will be served. Please sign up at the front desk or e-mail Dawn at dleach@austincc.edu so that we can plan for food and child care.

BITS AND PIECES

- Congratulations to Kathleen Hrnecir (Afternoon Aide-Moons) and Carmel Sweat (Morning Floater) who graduate from ACC with Associate degrees in Child Development this month.
- June Yeatman presented two sessions on *Environment and Communication: Keys to Infant-Toddler Learning* at the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in April and completed her fourth semester teaching CDEC 1321 Infant and Toddler Development as an adjunct faculty for the ACC Child Development Department.
- Chris Owens presented Continuing Education workshops on Music and Movement, and Art.
- The following staff completed coursework this semester: Carmel Sweat (ACC), Kathleen Hrnecir (ACC), Sarah Jenkins (UT), Raechelle Redmond (UT), Ashlee Harper (UT), Erin McSpadden (UT), Jennifer Thomas (ACC), Diego Fishburn (ACC), Dawn Leach (ACC)
- Many full-time staff will be going on vacation this summer. In addition to the wonderful hourly substitutes that have been working this past year, we are excited to welcome LaTisha Shelton, Child Development student as a new substitute.
- We say good-bye to Ashley Walker, UT Intern who graduates this semester. She is applying to medical school and will be enrolling in EMT basic classes in Dallas this summer.



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Austin Community College Children's Lab School is a preschool program for children, six months through five years of age, that serves as a demonstration school for the ACC Child Development Department. The Children's Lab School offers an early childhood program designed to support the growth and development of young children in a warm and creative environment. Through field work experiences in a lab setting, students observe the principles of child development and gain practical experience with young children under the supervision and guidance of qualified classroom teachers. The Children's Lab School is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAECP), a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

2009-10 Calendar at a Glance

Last Day ACC Spring Semester.....May 14
*Memorial Day Holiday.....May 31
ACC Summer Semester Begins.....June 1
Independence Day Holiday.....July 4
Last Day for Graduating Lab School Children....August 13
ACC Summer Semester Ends.....August 13
*Room Prep & Professional Development Week..August 16-20
ACC 2010-2011 Academic Year Begins.....August 23

Please note the center closure in August for room preparation and professional development. This allows teachers and maintenance to clean, repair and prepare rooms for new children. Staff will also be able to participate in required training, meet as a team, plan, and conduct home visits.

*Lab School will be closed to children on these dates.



TDFPS is taking comment on proposed Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards revisions. There are a number of proposed changes, but changes to the staff-child ratios are the most controversial. Proposed changes are:

Age	ratio	max. group size
0-11 months	1:4	8
12-17 months	1:5	10
18-35 months	1:9	18
3 year olds	1:14	28
4 year olds	1:18	35
5 year olds	1:20	35
6-13 year olds	1:22	35

You know first hand the benefits of better staff-child ratios for children—advocate for better ratios for ALL children. According to a recent United Way survey, 75% of area programs already meet better ratios. For more information about the proposed changes, go to http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care/about_child_care_licensing/. To comment on the proposed changes, go to http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Providers/ccl_comments_form.asp